

# CALIFORNIA LATINO CAUCUS



***Assemblymember Joe Coto (Caucus Chair)***  
***Twenty-third District***

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 15, 2007**

***Contact: Xochitl Arellana***  
***916.651.4022***

## **Governor's Budget Proposal 'Half Empty'**

***Latino Caucus sets priority to protect working families***

**Sacramento-** The California Latino Legislative Caucus expresses deep concern with the governor's proposal to make cuts that disproportionately penalize those who can afford it the least. The Governor's May revise issued yesterday has significant potential but falls short.

The governor's budget cuts programs intended to assist those who need our assistance, those who can least afford cuts, and those whose voices are least heard in government. The budget cuts programs for the needy at a time when oil company profits have reached excessive levels, a time when the difference between the salaries of workers and managers is at record levels, a time when most of California's wealth is controlled by a very small percentage of our population. Many of those who the budget shortchanges are constituents of the Latino Caucus. They are students, the poor and the disabled. We are concerned about:

- Denying cost of living increases to the State's aged, blind and disabled.
- Increasing UC and CSU fees by a whopping 7% to 10%.
- Repealing the teacher tax credit for out-of-pocket educational expenses
- Eliminating cost of living increases to CalWORKS families.
- Proposing to sell California's EdFund which guarantees student loans
- Taking important funding away from public transportation projects

The Twenty-five Members of the Legislative Latino Caucus stand ready and eager to work with the governor to craft a budget that is fair and equitable to all Californians. The budget process is the negotiation and compromise that occurs between the governor and the legislature. The State's budget can and should direct California to a vibrant future, one which empowers all its people to healthy, productive lives.